

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 www.mountcross.com

Masks are now optional at Mount Cross.

Let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card:
<https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>.



To the Parents of Our Young Children –

We are so glad you are here. We know how challenging it can be to get a family out the door to come to church. We hope you can relax and receive the gifts of God that are here for you today. Please don't worry about squirming children or crying babies.

All are welcome here. If you feel you must leave the service with your child, please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

We want them to know they are at home in this house of worship.

To All Worshippers –

The presence of those with special needs is a gift to us and the Church. Please welcome all children and give their parents a smile of encouragement. Please greet those with special needs and their families, helping them to know they are valued and accepted in our community.

Please introduce yourself to someone you do not know.

Thank you for being the welcoming Body of Christ!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“What Can't Wait?”

December 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE - "Tidings Carol" (Liebergen)

Mount Cross Choir; Justin Thai, flute; Guy Ervin III, piano

O come, O come, Emmanuel, come down to us on earth;
O come, O come, Emmanuel, we long to see your birth.
Let everyone be joyful with songs of Christmas mirth.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

O come, O Come, Emmanuel, your birth is drawing near;
O come, O come, Emmanuel, let carols ring out clear.
O come, O come, Emmanuel, we await your coming with great cheer, great cheer.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, we look to see the light;
O come, O come, Emmanuel, now take away all fright.
The angels and the shepherds will praise you through the night.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, come down from heav'n above, Emmanuel.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

GATHERING SONG - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - ELW 257 - Verses 1-3

As able, the assembly stands.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism, as the presiding minister addresses the assembly:

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

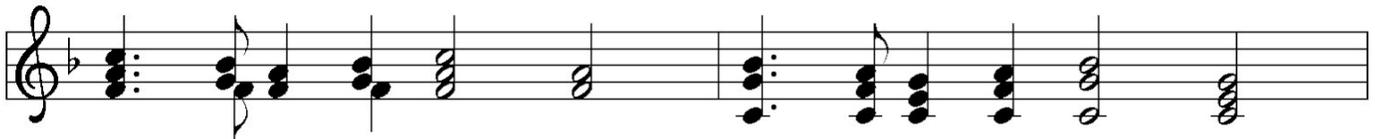
C **Amen.**

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE - "Kyrie Eleison" - ELW 155 - sing in Greek



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

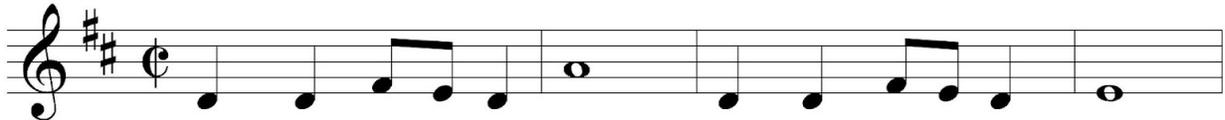
The assembly is seated.





LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Pastor Julie Morris

CHILDREN'S SONG - "Light One Candle" (Sleeth)



1. Light one can-dle for hope, one bright can-dle for hope.
2. Light one can-dle for peace, one bright can-dle for peace.
3. Light one can-dle for joy, one bright can-dle for joy.
4. Light one can-dle for love, one bright can-dle for love.



Christ brings hope to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!
Christ brings peace to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!
Christ brings joy to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!
Christ brings love to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Words and music by Natalie Sleeth. © 1976, Hinshaw Music, Inc. Used with permission.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

L Word of God, word of life.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80 - "O Shepherd, Hear and Lead Your Flock" (Morgan/St. Louis)

Mount Cross Choir

Verse 1

O Shepherd, hear and lead your flock, as lambs we crave your care;
what strength on earth approaches yours, what mercies can compare?

Restore, O God, your favor, the radiance of your face
to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

Verse 2

Our selfish prayers expect God's wrath, our scorn, a sudden burst;
we have but stones to serve as bread, and tears to quench our thirst.

Restore, O God Almighty, the radiance of your face
to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

Verse 3

God's lineage, like a vine, once spread and flourished in the land;
but now the vineyard fails, the fruit lies withered in the sand.

Restore, Lord God Almighty, the radiance of your face
to lighten and reveal the gift of your redeeming grace.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "Advent Gospel Acclamation" (Pishner) - sing 2x's

Based on VENI EMMANUEL
Stephen Pishner

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

P The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," Which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**
The assembly is seated.

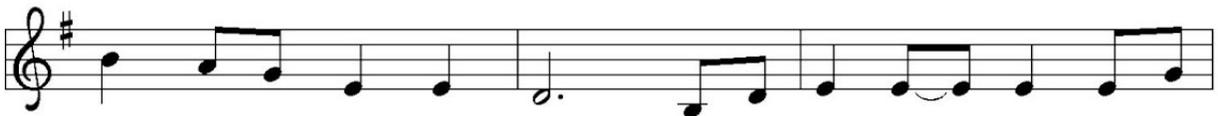
SERMON - Pastor Julie Morris

As able, the assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

SONG OF THE DAY - "Canticle of the Turning" - ELW 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, and we ask your guidance for our Mount Cross Peace & Justice team. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially everyone on our prayer list ...

PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

We pray for Tom Andino (friend of Carol Browning), **Mary Aschenbeck** (friend of Mary & Ric Kienitz), **Mark Caceres** (brother of Becky Gilbertson), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Crista** (niece of Karen Cherry), **Kate Fisher, Marc Grasmugg** (son of Marion Cole), **Johnathan Hammersley** (great-nephew of Marni Engh), **Jackie Hatcher, Diana and Skip Hess** (friends of Judy & Bob Winters), **Jo Holler, Nancy Jaeger, Jerry Kochans, Mike McClary, Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson, Heather Rogers** (granddaughter of Nancy and Jim Jaeger), **Julianna McKillop** (grandmother of Rachel Zook Briner), **Jeff Miller** (friend of Becky & Ken Riley), **Ansehl and Cathy Pike** (family of Marni Engh), **Julia Rowley** (granddaughter of Nancy & Bill Rowley), **Neil Rubin** (son of Brian & Janet Rubin), **Norb and Marilyn Rud, Lisa Saner, Dianne Selbrede, Cassie Sorenson** (friend of Evonne Kuchera), **Marie Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **and for all survivors of violence.**

*Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests
remain in the bulletin for four weeks.*

*If you would like to add or remove someone to or from the prayer list, please
e-mail the church office at office@mountcross.com or call 805.482.3847.*

A God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God who listens, we now offer you our own prayers, either silently or aloud (*pause*) ... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY - "The King Shall Come" - ELW 260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

OFFERING PRAYER

A Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**



As able, the assembly stands for the Great Thanksgiving.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

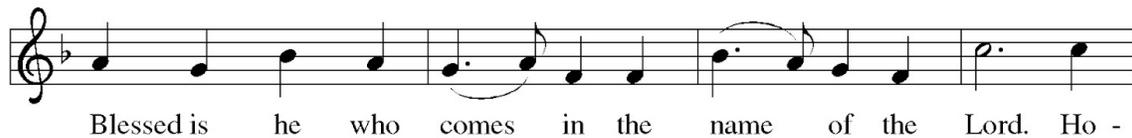
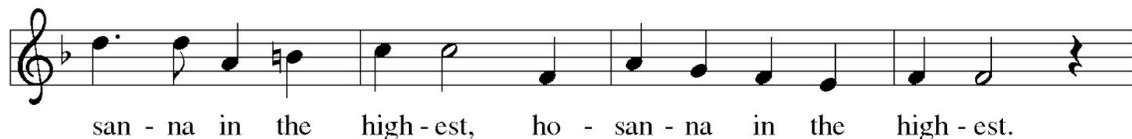
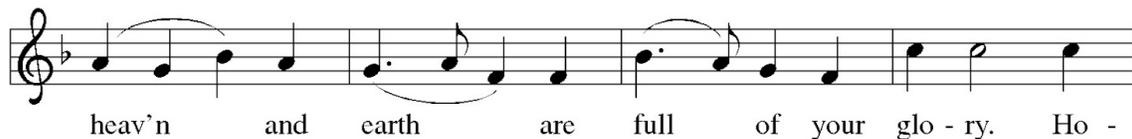
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C **Amen.**



P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD/INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

The assembly may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD - "Lamb of God" (Kraft/IRBY)

Lamb of God, the world's Re - deem-er, mer - cy to your peo - ple give.

Lamb of God, the world's Re - deem-er, may we in your mer - cy - live.

Lamb of God, we all im - plore, grant us peace for ev - er - more.

Text: Linda J. Kraft, Pastor, Holy Trinity ELCA, Trumbull, CT.

Music: IRBY (8 7 8 7 77).

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Holy Communion will be distributed in the center aisle. Ushers will dismiss people by rows, beginning from the back of the church. Please come forward to receive the bread, and then walk to the side to receive wine or grape juice (in the center ring). Place your empty cup in the trays provided. Communion ministers will bring Holy Communion to those with mobility challenges (or those worshiping outside who don't wish to come inside).

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (for our Livestream viewers)

A spiritual communion is a personal devotion that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. As Martin Luther once wrote: "I can enjoy the sacrament ... every day if only I keep my eyes on the promise, that is, on the words and promise of Christ, which feeds and strengthens my faith."

As we distribute Holy Communion to the congregation here, we invite those on the livestream to offer the Prayer of Spiritual Communion displayed on your screen:

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart.

(We pause for silent prayer).

Fill us all with your love and grace, and strengthen us to serve the world in your name. Amen.¹



¹ Adapted by Pastor Julie from a prayer written by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

**COMMUNION SONGS - "Creator of the Stars of Night" (Latin/CONDITOR ALME
SIDERUM/Browning) - Verses 1, 3, 5 & 6**

Verses



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your
 2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse Should
 3. When this old world drew on toward night, You
 4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now All
 5. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, Re -
 6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And



peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light, O
 doom to death a u - ni - verse, You
 came; but not in splen - dor bright, Not
 knees must bend, all hearts must bow: All
 deem us for e - ter - nal day; De -
 God the Spir - it, Three in One, Praise,



Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, We
 came, O Sav - ior, to set free Your
 as a mon - arch, but the child Of
 things on earth with one ac - cord, Like
 fend us while we dwell be - low From
 hon - or, might, and glo - ry be From



pray you hear us when we call.
 own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.
 Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
 those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 all as - saults of our dread foe.
 age to age e - ter - nal - ly.



To refrain Refrain
 Come, O Lord, and bring your light, O ra-diant

star, our hearts' de - light. O God-with-us, Em-man-u -
 el, with your love, the dark dis - pel.

Text: *Creator alme siderum*, Latin 9th. C.; tr. *The Hymnal 1982*, © 1985, The Church Pension Fund; refrain, Carol E. Browning, b.1956, © 2004, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, LM; Mode IV; acc. and refrain music by Carol E. Browning, b.1956, © 2004, GIA Publications, Inc.

“Wait for the Lord” - ELW 262 (repeat as needed)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
 Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community
 Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
 Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Faithful God,
 in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
 bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
 As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
 sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
 Guide us toward your promised future,
 coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**

As able, the assembly stands for the Blessing.

BLESSING

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG - "Joy to the World" - ELW 267 - Verses 1, 2 & 4

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748.

Music: ANTIOCH (CM and repeat), English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

DISMISSAL

A Rooted in God's grace,
C we joyfully witness and serve!

POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

*Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God
by Melissa Henry in memory of Lois Greason.*

Thank you to our Mount Cross Choir - Carol Broderick, Randy Churchill, Mary Goodenough, Melissa Henry, Miriam Hoffmann, Gayle Johnson, Evonne Kuchera, Wendy McClary, Dan Nelson, Susan Prosser, Stan Patscheck, Barbara Recker, Becky Riley, Keith Selbrede, and Bill Stoll - and to Guy Ervin III and Justin Thai for their music today.

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If you haven't already done so today, let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card: <https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>.
Join us for **Fellowship in the Pavilion** after worship each Sunday!

Come to the Table: Mount Cross is offering **Communion reception in the sanctuary or in your car** from **11:00-11:30 a.m.**

Please consider your vulnerabilities and risk factors before choosing to participate.

The Week at a Glance

TODAY, December 18

Decorating the Christmas Tree and Making Sandwiches, after Worship
If you're able to stay after Worship this morning, we'll be decorating the Christmas tree and making sandwiches for Harbor House.

High School Youth Christmas Party,
5:00-7:00 p.m.

The high school youth are meeting here at church from 5:00-7:00 p.m. tonight for a gift exchange and Christmas party. (Please keep gifts under \$15 and try to avoid gift cards.) Please bring snacks to share with others for the night. Dress festive!

Monday, December 19

Monday Meditation, 3:00 p.m.
The Meditation group meets on Zoom at 3:00 p.m.
Questions, contact LaJean Wenzel.

Tuesday, December 20

Women's Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study meets in the sanctuary, to finish the *Gather* magazine Advent devotional. This is the last meeting until the new year.

Church Council, 7:00 p.m.
The Church Council meets at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Wednesday, December 21

NO Bell Choir Rehearsal
The Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on January 4.

Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
The choir meets in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. this week to rehearse music for Christmas.

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Al-Anon, 10:00 a.m.
Al-Anon meets at 10:00 a.m.
in the Parish Life Center.

Christmas Eve Worship, 5:00 p.m.

All are welcome for our Christmas Eve service (also available on livestream).

Next Sunday, December 25

Christmas Worship, 9:30 a.m.
All are welcome for our Christmas Day service (also available on livestream).

Masking Guidelines at Mount Cross

Masks are **optional** in all indoor and outdoor settings at Mount Cross. We encourage all members to take precautions to protect themselves and others from illness. We continue to offer seating outside for Sunday worship. Our masking guidelines will change again if the COVID case rate rises and Ventura County reinstates a mask mandate. Thank you for your cooperation and care.

Announcements

Sunday Worship

We always need worship assistants, especially for technology. We will train you. Contact Vicky Edell at vickyedell5@gmail.com or sign-up online at <https://signup.com/Group/7769976983269200115/>. Thank you for serving at Mount Cross!

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

For information on our weekly programs, email Joe (joe@mountcross.com).

Anti-Racism Work of the Week:

These links are offered by the Peace & Justice Team in a spirit of goodwill to those who are seeking to learn from diverse voices and take action towards reconciliation and healing. We invite everyone to be a part of these ongoing conversations.

This week, we share the exciting news that Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has received a gift of \$15 million from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott!

The gift is an investment in their vision that all immigrants and refugees are protected, embraced, and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities. With it, they plan to accelerate groundbreaking projects that will transform immigration services, including trauma-informed mental health care and the expansion of their holistic Welcome Centers for asylum-seeking families. The record-breaking gift will also support the New American Cities workforce development program and reinforce their unique capabilities to care for unaccompanied children through foster care programming and other community-based services. Click here to read the full press release:

https://www.lirs.org/philanthropist-mackenzie-scott-donates-15-million-to-lutheran-immigration-and-refugee-service/?mc_cid=84c1ab9200&mc_eid=67a0081209

Altar Flowers

To request flowers for our worship: <https://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2022>. The cost is \$40.00; you can take the arrangement home with you after worship, or pick it up at Communion following worship. If you aren't here but would still like flowers, please let us know; we'll deliver the arrangement to another member to enjoy.

More Ways to Give

Thank you, Mount Cross congregation, for all the generosity you have shown in these times of trial! To give to Mount Cross on your cell phone or tablet, download Vanco's free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play, enter zip code 93010, and choose Mount Cross. Please email any questions about giving and/or statements to Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at jbrundage@mountcross.com.

Amazon Smile

If you haven't already done so, choose Mount Cross Lutheran Church as your non-profit to support on smile.amazon.com so 0.5% of purchases will go to Mount Cross. Thank you!

St. Columba's Food Pantry

Each Sunday, we have a bin where you can bring non-perishable food for St. Columba's Project Hope food pantry. Canned vegetables or proteins are always a good choice. They could also use **boxes of breakfast cereal** at the moment. **Please do not donate food that is expired.** Thanks for your support.

Christmas With Areté

Come join us this Holiday season as Areté Vocal Ensemble presents its first Christmas concert in the group's 13-year history! From beautiful canticles to the modern carols you know and love, this concert is guaranteed to fill you with the spirit of the season, and leave you feeling merry and bright. Come to the Samuelson Chapel at California Lutheran University **TODAY, December 18, at 5:00 p.m.** to enjoy this special concert.

Areté Vocal Ensemble is an innovative professional ensemble of vocal artists based in Thousand Oaks, California, and includes Mount Cross member Carina McVeigh!
To purchase tickets, please visit www.aretévocalensemble.org.

The MC Christmas Greeting Board is back!

Send your warm Christmas wishes to all your fellow parishioners while saving time, paper, and postage! Place one greeting card in the basket in the church narthex and the Fellowship team will post it on the board for you!

Gifts of Hope

Visit the table on the patio to pick up your "gift cards" and complete your Christmas shopping with ease! We have four different amounts for the alternative gifts this year, but each donation supports rental assistance through Harbor House. For your donation, you get a Christmas card and note to gift to a friend or loved one instead of buying them an item that they might not really need. As our old friend Binney Nast used to say - "On Jesus' birthday, you get a gift Jesus would love." Keeping local families in their homes seems like a gift Jesus would love.

Noisy Offering - Laundry Love

We're doing a quick and easy collection extended through the month of December - quarters to support Laundry Love, a program that helps offset the cost of a laundromat. Once a week, Harbor House hosts a laundromat in Thousand Oaks and pays for the washing and drying of homeless neighbors' clothes and possessions. Add some quarters to the tube on the "washing machine" in the narthex, and let the homeless in Ventura County receive some Laundry Love.

Harbor House Glove Drive from Family Faith Formation

Help warm the hands (and hearts) of our neighbors at Harbor House this winter!

As winter has arrived, the Harbor House community is in need of adult-sized gloves. Children's gloves are welcome too. Gently-used or new gloves are appreciated. We will have an ongoing collection throughout winter - you can find the collection box in the narthex.

Save the Dates in 2023

Mount Cross will host Vitalant blood drives on Sunday, January 22, and Sunday, August 6. Sign-up information to follow.

A Christmas Act of Kindness – Share a Christmas Greeting!

A list of Mount Cross members and friends who would delight in receiving Christmas cards is available to anyone who would like to share a Christmas card greeting this year.

Each year, these cards are received with great appreciation.

The Care Team Christmas Card Suggested Mailing List with addresses is available:

- on the counter in the church narthex, - in the church office,
- by contacting the office (office@mountcross.com or 805-482-3847) to send it to you, or
- by calling Susan Prosser, Care Team, (805-657-6222) who can also email it to you.

Use the list to add one person, a few, or the entire group to your Christmas card mailing this year. Be assured you that your greeting will brighten the day of the recipient and bring added meaning to your celebration.

Advent/Christmas Events and Activities

- ❖ TODAY, December 18, after worship - Make sandwiches for Harbor House and trim the Mount Cross Christmas Tree

- ❖ This Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service with Carols, Candles, and Communion

- ❖ Next Sunday, December 25, 9:30 a.m. - Christmas Sunday Worship

- ❖ Sunday, January 1, 9:30 a.m. - Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

- ❖ Friday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. - Epiphany Star Service followed by a Dessert Potluck



Mount Cross Generosity Campaign

Please contact Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at jbrundage@mountcross.com with any questions or comments about the November YTD Contribution Statements you recently received. If you have not yet submitted your 2023 Estimated Giving/Pledge cards, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thanks to all of you who have already submitted them!

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
@MountCross-LutheranChurch



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